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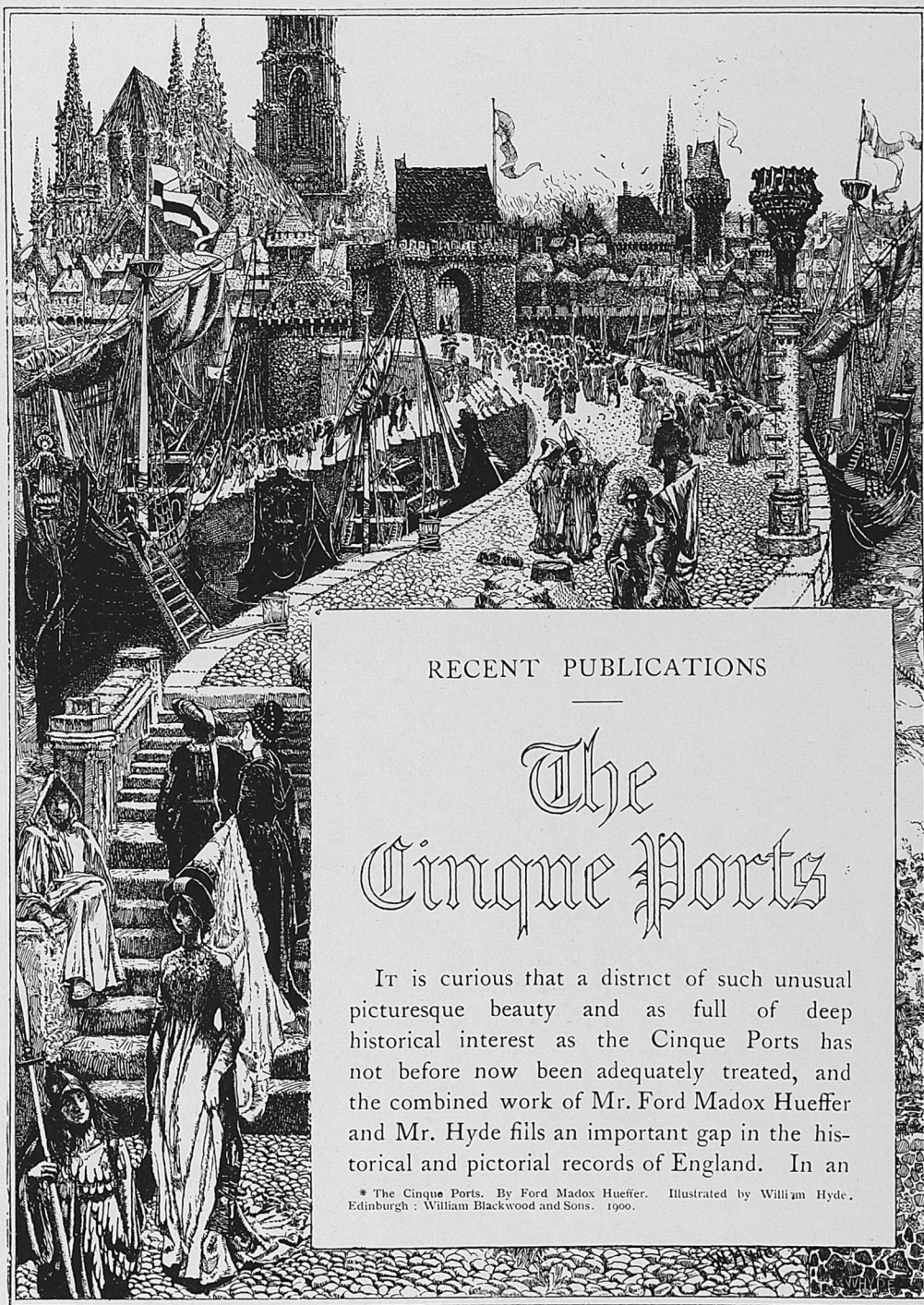
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THE CINQUE PORTS



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Cinque Ports

It is curious that a district of such unusual picturesque beauty and as full of deep historical interest as the Cinque Ports has not before now been adequately treated, and the combined work of Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer and Mr. Hyde fills an important gap in the historical and pictorial records of England. In an

* The Cinque Ports. By Ford Madox Hueffer. Illustrated by William Hyde. Edinburgh: William Blackwood and Sons. 1900.



AN ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM HYDE
TO F. M. HUEFFER'S 'THE CINQUE PORTS'
(W. Blackwood & Sons)

exquisitely humorous preface the author explains why he abandoned his original idea 'of attempting, by means of suggestion, to interpret to the passing years the inward message of the Five Ports' in favour of a less artistic, but more accurate, method of recording archæological and topographical facts. That Mr. Hueffer was not quite serious in his sarcastic remark will soon be apparent to all the readers of his brilliant, vivid word-pictures. At the same time, the greatest stickler for accurate facts, however unimportant they may be, will not be able to find fault with this admirable volume.

As far as the illustrations are concerned, most of which have been reproduced in photogravure, they are absolutely unimpeachable expressions of a fine artistic temperament. The illustrator of Meredith's 'Nature Poems' is probably unrivalled in his power of depicting Nature's moods. His black and white drawings are wonderfully

suggestive of colour; they are powerful paintings reduced to monochrome—not mere literal transcriptions of sky, sea, fields and woods, but representations of the very soul of nature. But they are somehow misplaced in Mr. Hueffer's book, although both artists, the writer and the painter, share the same big views of nature, and try—successfully try—to express them in their own style. Text and illustrations lack unity, because the picturesque interest of the Cinque Ports depends largely on the quaint old houses and the architecture of the little towns, which are fully appreciated by the author, whilst Mr. Hyde is not in sympathy with the work of man; he feels cramped in the steep, narrow streets of the old fishing village, and prefers the bracing air of open spaces. As independent works of art his drawings are superb; as illustrations to Mr. Hueffer's book they cannot be pronounced an unqualified success.